

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 06597 01 OF 02 111816Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 IO-13 EB-08  
NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-15 CEQ-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01  
MCE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 NEA-10 /124 W  
-----084914 111852Z /45

O R 111755Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7550  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USNATO  
USNMR SHAPE  
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN  
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG  
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06597

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MPOL, MNUC, PARM, PEPR, GW, US  
SUBJECT: POLITICAL DISCUSSION OF NEUTRON WEAPON DECISION

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REFERENCE: BONN 6374 DTG 071835Z APR 78

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FRG POLITICAL SCENE HAS INCREASINGLY  
ZEROED IN ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON ISSUE SINCE THE ANNOUNCE-  
MENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION LAST FRIDAY. THE  
BUNDESTAG WILL DEBATE THIS QUESTION IN ITS REGULAR  
SESSION ON THURSDAY, APRIL 13. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MONDAY, APRIL 10, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT BRIEFED THE BUNDESTAG DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES IN CLOSED SESSION ON RECENT NATO DISCUSSION OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON. SPEAKING TO THE PRESS AFTER THE BRIEFING, DEFENSE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MANFRED WOERNER (CDU) INDICATED THAT THE CHANCELLOR'S PRESENTATION HAD FOLLOWED THE LINES OF THE FRG STATEMENT LAST FRIDAY (REF) AND HAD REVEALED SOME "PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN" DETAILS. HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

2. THE BUNDESTAG HAS COMMITTED THE MORNING OF ITS APRIL 13 SESSION TO DISCUSSION OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON, AND POSSIBLY OTHER ISSUES, THEREBY DEFERRING AN ALREADY SCHEDULED DEBATE ON THE CSCE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE. THE CHANCELLOR WILL READ A GOVERNMENT DECLARATION WHICH WILL COVER THE APRIL 7 NATO COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON AND LAST WEEK'S EUROPEAN COUNCIL SUMMIT IN COPENHAGEN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE DECLARATION MAY ALSO TOUCH ON THE NEW USG NONPROLIFERATION LAW, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THE VISIT OF CZECH LEADER HUSAK. A DEBATE ON THE DECLARATION WILL FOLLOW.

3. THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION IS LOADED FOR BEAR ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON ISSUE. IT WILL USE THE APRIL 13 DEBATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO PORTRAY THE CHANCELLOR (AND THE SPD) AS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PERCEIVED DETERIORATION IN GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND THE RESULTANT IMPACT ON FRG NATIONAL SECURITY. SOME CDU/CSU CIRCLES HAVE ALSO HINTED THAT, WILL ALL RESPECT FOR GERMAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP, THEY WILL ALSO CRITICIZE THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON THE NEUTRON BOMB.

4. THERE IS SOME HINT THAT, IN THIS DEBATE, THE UNION WILL ALSO INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE BUNDESTAG

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TO ENDORSE PUBLICLY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S THREE-STEP  
APPROACH TO THE NEUTRON WEAPON. SUCH A MOVE, IF MADE,  
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WOULD SEEK PRIMARILY TO DRIVE A WEDGE INTO THE RANKS OF  
THE SPD CAUCUS, WHERE SENTIMENT AGAINST THE WEAPON IS  
EXISTS HOWEVER, THE CDU/CSU CAUCUS HAS NOT YET DECIDED  
ON WHETHER TO INTRODUCE SUCH A RESOLUTION FOR THE APRIL  
13 DEBATE.

5. THE FDP NATIONAL PRESIDUM MET ON MONDAY TO DISCUSS  
POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON DECISION.  
ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, IT ISSUED A STATEMENT

INTER ALIA WARNING AGAINST "UNBRIDLED CAMPAIGNS"  
AGAINST THE U.S.A. AND CALLING FOR MAXIMUM EFFORT TO  
REALIZE ARMS-CONTROL BENEFITS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S  
DECISION.

6. THE SPD NATIONAL PRESIDUM ISSUED A STATEMENT ON  
APRIL 11 WHICH STRESSED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION  
CAN GIVE NEW IMPETUS TO ARMS-CONTROL EFFORTS. CITING  
THE SPD NATIONAL CONVENTION RESOLUTION OF LAST NOVEMBER,  
THE PARTY DECLARED THAT ALL EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO REACH  
ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS FOR NEUTRON WEAPONS. FINALLY,  
THE SPD DOCUMENT BRANDED CHAIRMAN FRANZ-JOSEF  
STRAUSS' RECENT CRITICISM OF THE PRESIDENT AS CONTRARY  
TO THE INTERESTS OF THE FRG, THE POSITION OF NATO, AND  
THE NECESSITY FOR WORKING WITH THE USG ON THE BASIS OF  
TRUST.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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